Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace the originally filed claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 – 10 (cancelled).

Claim 11 (currently amended): An apparatus which may be used for controlling the dispensing of a pressurized fluid, wherein:

a) said apparatus comprises:

1) a body located about a first axis comprising an internal passage for said fluid, wherein said passage extends between an inlet orifice and an outlet orifice;

2) a fastening base located about said first axis, wherein:

(a) said base is threaded at its external periphery; and

(b) said base is substantially in coaxial connection with said inlet orifice;

3) an outlet connector located about a second axis, wherein said outlet connector is substantially in connection with said outlet orifice;

4) a manometer means located about a third axis, wherein said manometer means comprises a pressure take-off substantially connected to said internal passage;

5) a tightening grip comprising a tightening grip base, wherein said tightening grip is substantially located between said manometer and said fastening base; and

6) a lever <u>having first and second legs and being</u> located about a fourth axis, wherein

(a) said lever pivots around a fifth axis which is substantially perpendicular to said first axis; ~~and~~

(b) said lever cooperates with at least one valve means, located on said internal passage, so as to regulate fluid movement between said inlet orifice and said outlet orifice; <u>and</u>

(c) a first end of said first leg being adjacent to said fifth axis, a second end of said first leg being connected to a first end of said second leg, a second end of said second leg being disposed at a point along the first axis between said second and third axes, said first and second legs being angled away from another at a juncture of said first leg second end and said second leg first end; and

b) the distance between said tightening grip base and said third axis of said manometer is between about 27 mm and about 35 mm;

c) the distance between said tightening grip base and said second axis of said outlet connector is between about 60 mm and about 75 mm; and

d) the distance between said base of said tightening grip base and said fifth axis of said lever is between about 50 mm and about 110 mm.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said pressurized fluid comprises a gas.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the distance between said tightening grip base and the top of said body is between about 80 mm and 120 mm.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 13, wherein:

a) said distance between said tightening grip base and said third axis is about 30 mm;

b) said distance between said tightening grip base and said second axis is about 65 mm;

c) said distance between said tightening grip base and said fifth axis is about 95 mm; and

d) said distance between said tightening grip base and said top of said body is about 105 mm.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said first axis and said second axis are substantially perpendicular.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the angle between the plane created by said first axis and said third axis, and the plane created by said first axis and said fourth axis, is between about 75° and about 105°.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said angle is about 90°.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the angle between the plane created by said first axis and said third axis; and the plane created by said first axis and said second axis, is less than about 45°.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 18, wherein said angle is about 30°.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said cooperation between said lever and said valve means comprises a movable rod acting on said valve means.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said lever pivots between:

a) at least one resting position wherein said valve means prevents an exiting of said fluid through said connector; and
b) an active position wherein said valve means allows said fluid to circulate through said internal passage and exit through said connector.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 21, wherein said valve means is normally maintained in a closed position, when said lever is in said resting position, by a spring means.

Claim 23 (currently amended): An apparatus which may be used for controlling the dispensing of a pressurized fluid, wherein:

a) said apparatus comprises:

1) a body located about a first axis comprising an internal passage for said fluid, wherein said passage extends between an inlet orifice and an outlet orifice;

2) a fastening base located about said first axis, wherein:

(a) said base is threaded at its external periphery; and

(b) said base is substantially in coaxial connection with said inlet orifice;

3) an outlet connector located about a second axis, wherein said outlet connector is substantially in connection with said outlet orifice and wherein said first axis and said second axis are substantially perpendicular;

4) a manometer means located about a third axis, wherein said manometer means comprises a pressure take-off substantially connected to said internal passage;

5) a tightening grip comprising a tightening grip base, wherein said tightening grip is substantially located between said manometer and said fastening base; and

6) a lever <u>having first and second legs and being</u>located about a fourth axis, wherein

(a) said lever pivots around a fifth axis which is substantially perpendicular to said first axis and wherein said lever also pivots between:

(1) at least one resting position wherein ~~said~~ <u>at least one</u> valve means prevents an exiting of said fluid through said connector; and

(2) an active position wherein said <u>at least one</u> valve means allows said fluid to circulate through said internal passage and exit through said connector; and

(b) said lever cooperates with said at least one valve means, located on said internal passage, so as to regulate fluid movement between said inlet orifice and said outlet orifice, wherein said cooperation between said lever and said valve means comprises a movable rod acting on said valve means; and

(c) a first end of said first leg being adjacent to said fifth axis, a second end of said first leg being connected to a first end of said second leg, a second end of said second leg being disposed at a point along the first axis between said second and third axes, said first and second legs being angled away from another at a juncture of said first leg second end and said second leg first end; and

b) the distance between said tightening grip base and said third axis of said manometer is about 30;

c) the distance between said tightening grip base and said second axis of said outlet connector is about 65 mm;

d) the distance between said base of said tightening grip base and said fifth axis of said lever is about 95 mm;

e) the distance between said tightening grip base and the top of said body is between about 80 mm and 120 mm;

f) the angle between the plane created by said first axis and said third axis, and the plane created by said first axis and said fourth axis, is between about 75° and about 105°; and

g) the angle between the plane created by said first axis and said third axis; and the plane created by said first axis and said second axis, is less than about 45°.

Claim 24 (previously presented): An apparatus which may be used to contain a pressurized gas, wherein:

a) said apparatus comprises a tap, wherein said tap comprises:

1) a body located about a first axis comprising an internal

passage for said fluid, wherein said passage extends between an inlet orifice and an outlet orifice;

2) a fastening base located about said first axis, wherein:
   (a) said base is threaded at its external periphery; and
   (b) said base is substantially in coaxial connection with said inlet orifice;

3) an outlet connector located about a second axis, wherein said outlet connector is substantially in connection with said outlet orifice;

4) a manometer means located about a third axis, wherein said manometer means comprises a pressure take-off substantially in connection with said internal passage;

5) a tightening grip comprising a tightening grip base, wherein said tightening grip is substantially located between said manometer and said fastening base;

6) a lever <u>having first and second legs and being</u> located about a fourth axis, wherein
   (a) said lever pivots around a fifth axis which is substantially perpendicular to said first axis;
   (b) said lever cooperates with at least one valve means, located on said internal passage, so as to regulate fluid movement between said inlet orifice and said outlet orifice; <u>and</u>
   <u>(c) a first end of said first leg being adjacent to said fifth axis, a second end of said first leg being connected to a first end of said second leg, a second end of said second leg being disposed at a point along the first axis between said second and third axes, said first and second legs being angled away from another at a juncture of said first leg second end and said second leg first end;</u> and

7) a protective covering surrounding at least part of said tap; and

b) the distance between said tightening grip base and said third axis of

said manometer is between about 27 mm and about 35 mm;

c) the distance between said tightening grip base and said second axis of said outlet connector is between about 60 mm and about 75 mm;

d) the distance between said base of said tightening grip base and said fifth axis of said lever is between about 50 mm and about 110 mm; and

e) said tap is substantially covered with a protective covering.